

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9955

EXDIS

FOR AF/C JUNIOR FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, UK
SUBJECT: PARIS MEETING ON AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA

1. FOLLOWING EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS ARE
OFFERED FOR WHAT THEY MIGHT BE WORTH JUST BEFORE PARIS
MEETING TO DISCUSS AFRICAN FORCE:

2. CHARGES OF PARIS FIVE EMBASSIES KINSHASA HAVE RE-
MAINED IN FREQUENT CONTACT INFORMALLY TO EXCHANGE
IDEAS ON BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF MEETING. WHILE
THERE WAS INITIALLY SOME INCLINATION BY OTHERS,
EXPECIALLY FRENCH, TO CHARACTERIZE INITIATIVE AS
AMERICAN, THAT LINE OF REASONING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
SET ASIDE EARLY ON AS OTHER FOUR BECAME CONVINCED OF
UTILITY OF GATHERING. LOCALLY, THE BELGIAN HAS BEEN
STRONGEST ADVOCATE OF MEETING ALL ALONG WITH FRENCHMAN
EVENTUALLY WARMING TO GOF TASK AS HOST. GERMAN HAS
CONTINUED TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR
ADVESE PUBLICITY; SOME OF HIS COMMENTS TO US SUGGEST
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE NEED AT PARIS
DISCUSSIONS FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE PHASE DOWN OF AFRICAN
FORCE. AT SAME TIME, FRG CHARGE HERE TELLS US HE AGREES
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WITH REST OF FIVE THAT EVEN AN OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE WOULD
REQUIRE AFRICAN FORCE HERE AT LEAST UNTIL FALL OF 1978 (UNLESS
VERIFICATION COMMISSION CAN ASSUME TASK EARLIER).
BRITISH ATTITUDE LOCALLY TOWARD MEETING HAS BEEN LARGELY
ONE OF UNENTHUSIASTIC WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG, PRESUMABLY
REFLECTING FACT THAT BRITISH CONSIDER THEIR INTERESTS HERE COM-
PARATIVELY MINOR AND, IN GENERAL, JUDGE HARSHLY MOBUTU'S

LEADERSHIP RECORD. THERE ARE CONTINUING SIGNS OF BRITISH
NERVOUSNESS ABOUT PRESSURE ON UK FROM ANGLOPHONE
AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY TANZANIA. FOLLOWING SHABA II.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL DIVERGENCE OF OPINION
AMONG FIVE HERE CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE.
FRENCH, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE
EFFECTIVENESS OF AFRICAN FORCES, ESPECIALLY MOROCCANS.
BELGIANS CONTINUE TO WORRY A GREAT DEAL OVER INTERNAL
SECURITY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING FOOD SHORTAGES, BECAUSE OF
THEIR CONCERN OVER LARGE BELGIAN EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY.

4. WHILE OUR FOUR ALLIES AGREE WITH US ON WHAT HAS AND
HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY GOZ TOWARD MEETING OUR CON-
DITIONS AND IN MAKING PROGRESS ON REFORMS, THE OTHER FOUR
SEEM MUCH MORE WILLING THAN OURSELVES TO CONSIDER GOZ PER-
FORMANCE THUS FAR AS "BEST EFFORTS" WHICH SHOULD BE
RECOGNIZED BY EASING SOME OF DONOR GOVERNMENTS
PRESSURE. BELGIANS ARE LEADERS OF THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT
WITH FRENCH AND GERMANS IN THAT ORDER BACKING THEM UP.
OUR APPROVAL OF PL 480 AND SSA ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN
WELCOMED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE OTHERS. WITH THE PASSING
MONTHS, THE "COMMON FRONT" HAS SUFFERED FURTHER EROSION,
AND WE SEE A CONTINUING INCLINATION BY THE OTHER FOUR TO
LET THE US PLAY, ALONE IF IT INSISTS, THE ROLE OF HARD
LINER ON REFORMS.
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